OCT 6 1955

STAFF NEWS

Our new Director, Dr. William S. Stewart comes to us from the University of California at Riverside where he held the position of chairman of the Department of Horticulture, California Citrus Experimental Station.

Dr. Stewart has an experienced background in the Horticultural and Agricultural fields including work with crude rubber during World War II in Mexico, and pineapple research work in the Hawaiian Islands during the year 1950-53. The doctor had ninety-three articles published in various scientific periodicals during the period 1938-54.

The Stewart family consists of Dr. and Mrs. Stewart and three fine children. Mary Lee Stewart, aged ten, was born in Monterrey, Mexico; David, aged nine, was born in Upland, California; and Carol Ann, aged four was born in Honolulu. The Stewarts recently moved into a new home at 1666 Oakwood Avenue, Arcadia.

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Don Woolley was recently appointed Chief Horticulturist for the Arboretum. Don a native of Medford, Massachusetts, is well acquainted with the horticultural field having served as Senior Superintendent of cultivations at the Botanical Gardens U.C.L.A. previous to his appointment here. Don and Elsa Woolley live in Temple City at 8829 Elm Street.

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The movies come to the Arboretum again on October 8th and 10th to shoot "Cyclops" a story involving some very giant lizards from the lost world.

The bird feeding station was completed by our old friend Mr. Benson and is to be landscaped soon by Don Woolley. This is one spot in the Arboretum that is really "for the birds."

Wedding bells will be sounding for Denis Kucera and his fianceé Sarah Babic sometime next spring. Denis, formerly our Information Aide, recently left us to continue his studies in botany at U.C.L.A.

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Jack Stumbo returned last week from his vacation which included fishing on the Rogue River and a trip on river boat that sounded great. Jack tells us that he caught several limits of salmon. The whole trip was apparently ideal.

Fred Walters left on his eight-day vacation on the 4th, we hope to get the details when he returns. Norman Aronson will do his best to handle the mowing by himself until Fred returns.

Jack Fawcett returned from his vacation which was spent in the Mother Lode country panning gold with fair success. Tino seemed pleased that Jack was back to work with him in the Park but when asked about himself had nothing to report. Tino evidently believes in the old Spanish saying "en boca cerada no entran mosca", a saying many of us could benefit by.

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Al Bardelli will be celebrating his (39th?) birthday October 12th. I understand the whole staff will be given the day off to celebrate with him and Christopher Columbus, (must be a new man.) Also best wishes to Bernice McKeen who celebrated her (?) birthday on October 5th.

We are all so happy to hear that Joyce Day's husband is feeling fine again, and is back on the job.

Our little Southern Belle, Sue Powell, writes that she is back in the "Halls of Higher Learning" really smothered with horticultural information.

An epidemic of new automobiles has broken out at the Arboretum. Proud owners of new autos include George Spalding, Bernice McKeen, Mrs. Turner and Thelma Blanchard. Mrs. Turner takes the cup for color appreciation with a fire engine red Mercury!

The entire staff of the Arboretum would like to express their appreciation to Dr. Stewart for planning, and to George Spalding for narrating our very worth-while lecture and tour held last Thursday.

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A very warm welcome to those of you who are new to our ranks:

Norman Aronson, a native of Minnesota, is a young addition to the staff. Norman, twenty-three years of age, is married and has a daughter. The Aronsons live in Los Angeles.

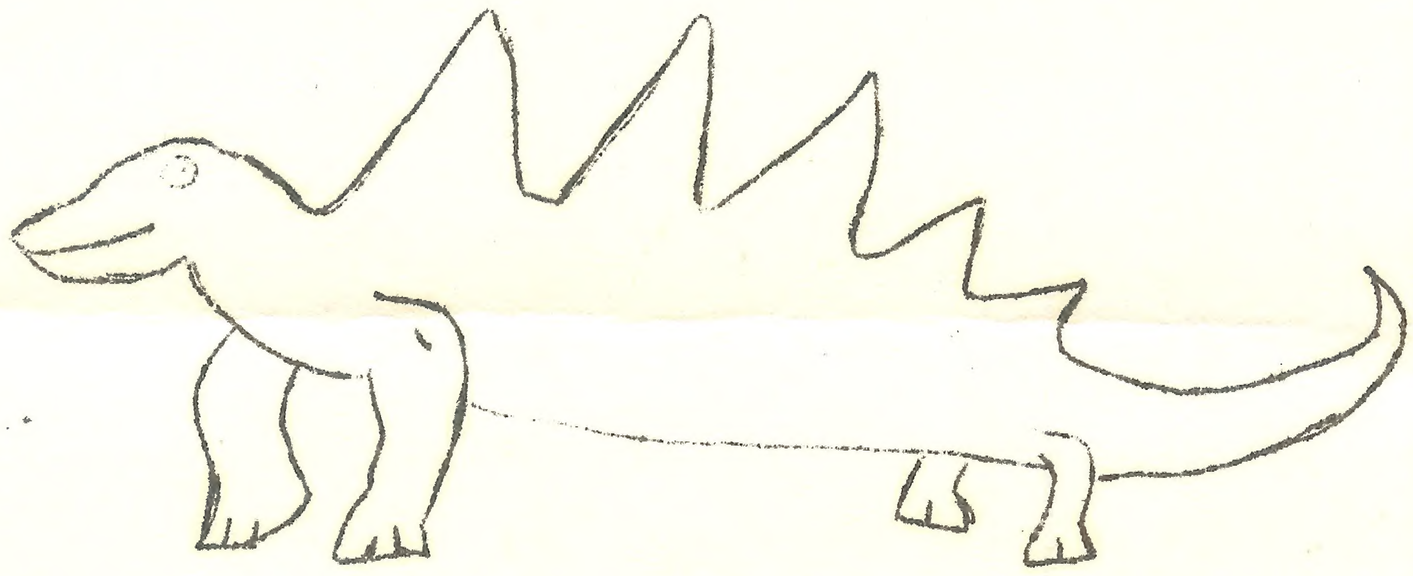
Bill Bruggemann is another native Easterner, having been born in New York City. Bill lives in Pasadena at present and has taken quite an interest in uranium.

Al Jones is married and lives in Monrovia. Al was born in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Frank Marsala is a native of Italy where he picked up the spaghetti habit. Frank and Rose Marsala live in Los Angeles.

English born George Taylor who with his wife lives in Azusa. George has had several years gardening experience and is an excellent addition to the staff.

Charles Chapman who formerly trimmed trees for the Parks Department will serve in that capacity here. Charles is married and lives in Alhambra. "Chuck" also does trimmingon the side so give him any help you can.



11-10-55

STAFF NEWS

November 10, 1955

Father Nature Whitsell has been dashing about his Jungle area planting air plants high in the trees. The Jungle area is really beginning to have that Jungle air about it.

Frank Simerly reports blossoms on his Tabebuia avellanedea var. paulensis. Photos by Dr. Lou Martin show the flowers to be very lovely with lavender pink petals and yellow throats.

If any of you scientists are interested in a new article on the effect of size and number of brain cells on learning in the larvae of the salamander, please drop over to the library.

We welcome any suggestions you, the members of our staff, might have in regard to a Christmas display for the main entrance area.

During a recent tour through the historical section of the Arboretum a youthful cub scout who had just been shown the room where "Lucky" Baldwin died was heard to remark "I don't see any blood on the floor."

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Dan Martel recently returned from The White Memorial Hospital where he underwent ear surgery. We are all glad the operation was such a success. Dan, a talented musician, is a new addition to our records office. Any one who needs the musical services of a fine trio please contact Dan. The Beroma trio is available for all engagements and includes piano, violin, and cello. Call ANgelus 3-1617 for further information.

Dave Ferguson, one of our student workers, recently became engaged to Joannie Mendenhall of Alhambra.

A warm welcome to Bennie Hawthorne, our new janitor. Bennie, a native of this area and a graduate of Monrovia High School, is married and has three children.

Ross Ross Goodrich caught seven moles last month, it would be a good idea if anyone is having trouble with them to contact Ross. Ross also tells us that he will give anyone in the Arboretum a seven mole lead and bet them he can catch more than they can in a given period.

Fred Walters (the goer on the mower) returned last month from his vacation which was uneventful except for his wife's illness which we were all very sorry to hear about

Billy Hawk must have had a fine time on his vacation. He returned only this week and reports that he worked on his vacation.

Charlie Potthast left on his vacation this week. The vacation will be spent travelling in Mexico.

My son Frank Ernest was born at about 3:20 p.m. on the 7th. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 in. long. Even though it's true, I won't say that he is the most beautiful baby in the world, however, with all joking aside, I must admit to his rare intelligence. I was amazed to learn that he has already learned to drink (water and milk) and am quite sure he recognized me on our first visit. In a week or two I expect to have pictures which I may condescend to show. (Please don't tell the studios since we aren't ready to sign contracts yet.) Frank Simerly

A staff meeting will be held in the service building garage on November 16th at 2:30 p.m. Speaker will be Dr. P. A. Peterson, of the Citrus Experiment Station. He will discuss "Avocado Breeding" and show time lapse movies of avocado flower opening.

Janet Wright our capable LASCA LEAVES editor will be on leave for three months. During that time Russ McGah and Louis Martin will be co-editors.

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Movie companies have been extremely busy in the Arboretum for the past month. During the shooting of "Cyclops" the duck population of the Arboretum dropped over to get an angle on picture making. Their presence was not appreciated and our picture making friends had to appoint a duck wrangler for a time.

During one sequence leading man James Craig and his leading lady were required to jump into our lagoon, as they were presumably being chased by a huge dinosaur. Both thespians expected the lagoon to be shallow, but much to their surprise went in almost over their heads. A quick trip to the Arboretum shower room was in order.

Universal pictures were also in on location for "African Crossing." In use on the lagoon was an old boat which resembled greatly the "African Queen." A small outboard was used for making the needed ripples for a supposed river scene. Stars of this picture included Virginia Mayo and George Nader.

PERSONAL SKETCHES

Dewey Nelson and Jack Fawcett in that order were the "Arboretum Pathfinders" so to speak.

Dewey, a native of Wisconsin, arrived on July 1, 1947 and now holds the position of Historical Curator. Having a fine knowledge of the Arboretum's historical background, he has been invaluable as guide, lecturer, and coordinator or our Information Section.

Most of us have had the pleasure of meeting Dewey's son, Harold Nelson. Harold is attending the University of Utah at Salt Lake City.

Jack Fawcett who has been with us since September 1st, 1948, has a very special tie with the Arboretum grounds. Jack is a nephew of E. J. Baldwin, owner of Rancho Santa Anita from 1875 to 1909, and lived on the ranch as a young fellow while Mr. Baldwin was alive. He has been extremely helpful as a source of fine photographs of early ranch life and authentic information about the Baldwin buildings and family.

For many years Jack ran a pack train in the High Sierra region of California, and now and then he still manages a short vacation in the high country. Jack and his wife Mary live in El Monte, California. A brother Harry Fawcett also works at the Arboretum as a night guard.

George Spalding, Superintendent of the Arboretum, has been with us almost since our inception and his contributions have been great. George was born in Guilford, Conneticut, and attended Stockbridge Agricultural School, a part of the Massachusetts State College. H e was affiliated with the New York Botanical Gardens for two years and also for a time with Wayside Gardens in Cleveland Ohio. Upon moving to California he was employed by Paul J. Howard and also served in the Marine Corp for two and a half years before coming to the Arboretum in January 1949. For interesting looks at the habits and culture of some of our rarer Arboretum plants be sure and read George's "Growing Notes" appearing quarterly in LASCA LEAVES.

Our plant recorder, Tom McGah, has been with us since August 22, 1949. Tom, who was born in Stoneham, Massachusetts and graduated from Boston University, spent sixteen years in Central America with the United Fruit Company. Much of this time was spent as a District Superintendent in Guatemala and Honduras. Many are the interesting stories that Tom has told about his experiences in Central America. Previous to coming here he held a position with the radiation laboratories at Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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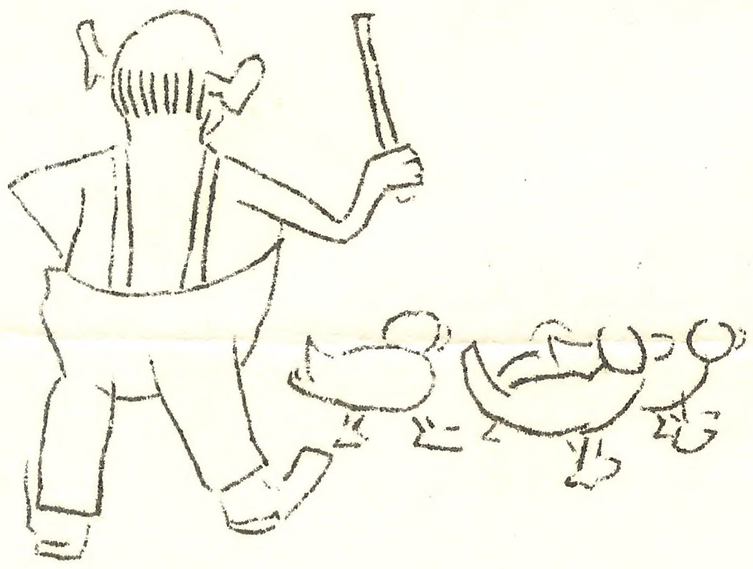


Frank Simerly

Ed Pugh

Scribes

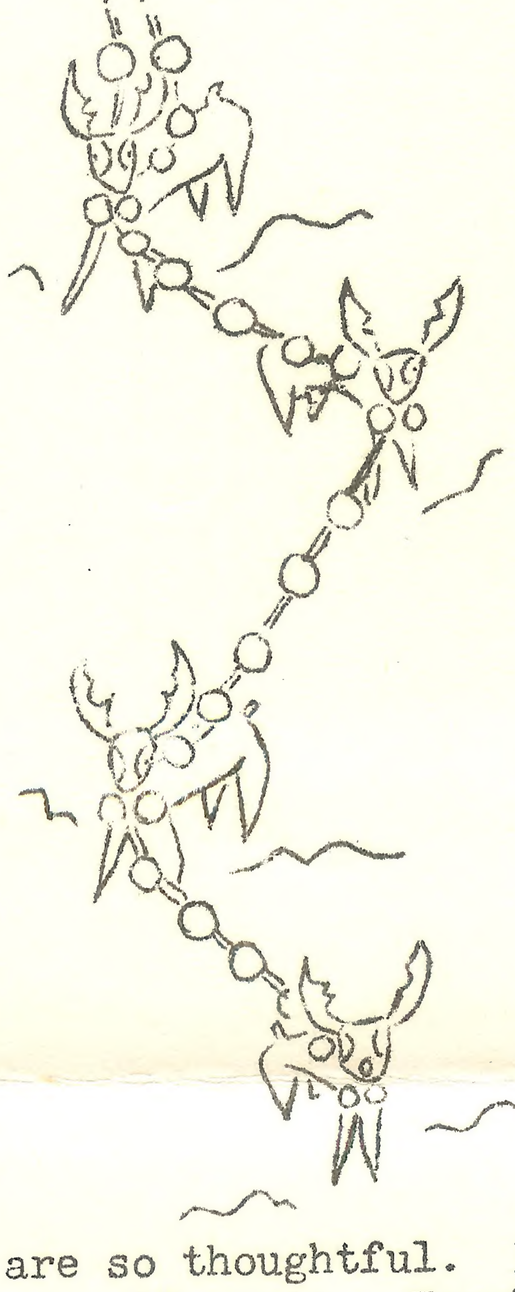
THE END

12-10-55

STAFF NEWS

December 10, 1955

The Arboretum made East Coast news on Sunday, October 9,1955. An article in the New York Times entitled "Plant Research Helps in the Control of Forest Fires" mentions our experiments with Cistus; telling that to date, of the plants tested, only the scrubby Cistus is rated fire resistant. Also that although five species will burn if a fire is lighted under and around them they will not support a fire and are not killed by fire. Mention is also made of our work in cooperation with the California Forestry Department in planting Cistus along fire breaks and roads in the Sierra Madres.



A group of Education Officials from the Los Angeles City School System, headed by Mrs. Margaret W. Divizia, supervisor in charge of the audio-visual section, visited the Arboretum on the twenty-second of November. After a tour of the geographic sections and the historical area our guests were taken through the records office, propagation area and lath house. Tom McGah gave a brief description of our records procedure. Quinn Buck explained propagation practices and Jim Cauffield told of the part that the lath house plays in the growth of our plants. Considerable interest was shown by the party and we can hopefully look forward to visits by students from the Los Angeles area in the near future.

We hope that more of the employees will take an active interest in the Employees Association. If any of you would like to learn more of its advantages you may contact Thelma in the office.

The response to Supervisor Ford's annual campaign for neckties has been marvelous and we want to thank all of you for your cooperation in this matter.

I wish to thank the staff for the beautiful quilt they gave my son. The gift came as a complete surprise to my wife and me and both of us are gratified to think that our friends at work are so thoughtful. It is my pleasure to be associated with such fine people, thank you all again. Frank Simerly.

It may interest some of you to know that the Chorisia speciosa at the Bel-Air Hotel should be in full bloom by now.

We hope that with the Christmas season coming on we can unite more firmly to make the growth of the Arboretum our common objective. We don't feel that personal responsibility should be placed above the cooperation that we all need and should be willing to give to all our fellow employees. Let's try to forget our sections except as an integral part of the Arboretum and all work together for the common purpose of furthering the Arboretum cause. We are going to try and we hope you will too.

George Spalding returned from his trip to San Francisco. He enjoyed himself greatly visiting his many friends in that area, but expressed his happiness at being back on the job.

With a little inveigling we found out that Benny Hawthorne (our janitor) is a musician-singer and that he sings with a group called "The Revelators who specialize in singing spirituals. If anyone would like to engage the group, get in touch with Benny. He has been associated in the past with many great musicians including Bobby Sherwood.

Charlie Potthast returned from his trip to Mexico and said he had a fine vacation. He and his wife travelled down the west coast highway by car and stayed in several of the larger cities, including Mexico City and Vera Cruz. Charlie said they saw a bull fight which was interesting. He was sorry, however, that he couldn't have spent a little more time on his trip (let's say three or four months more.)

We wish to welcome Apolonio Franco. He worked 8 years at the Bel-Air Hotel as gardener and enjoys that type of work very much. He and his wife live in Los Angeles with their four children.

PERSONAL SKETCHES

Sully, our "Mr. Fixit" at the Arboretum, holds the title of Park Maintenance Foreman. Coming to the Arboretum in January of 1950, he has been called on to tackle a wide variety of jobs. He is a veteran of several years with the Marine Corp, serving as a sergeant in the South Pacific. Sully now calls Temple City, California, home.

Thelma Blanchard, is Senior Stenographic Secretary and Personnel Officer for the Arboretum. In addition she holds the position of Accountant for the Arboretum Foundation and member of the Board of Directors of the County Credit Union. Thelma, born in Joplin, Missouri, graduated from Monrovia High School, attended Citrus Junior College, Borrough's Business College, and served three years as a Wave. She arrived at the Arboretum on January 30, 1950. Thelma's hobbies include trips to her mountain cabin in a new Pontiac, and prim Cheryl Lady Lasca, a very corpulent English bull dog.

In September of 1950 Quinn Buck joined the staff of the Arboretum as propagator, bringing with him a great deal of experience in the propagation field. Quinn came to us from the Ornamental Horticultural Department of U.C.L.A. where he was in charge of the greenhouses. He also has worked for several commercial firms growing gardenias, orchids, and bulbs. He is an enthusiastic orchid hobbyist and has done considerable hybridizing with day lilies and amaryllis. Quinn, a native of Texas Christian University and also attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. He lives in a charming cottage in Arcadia amid a huge collection of day lilies and orchids. Most of you know that Quinn is on a prolonged vacation for a much needed operation which has been carried off nicely. He should be home soon and we all hope he will have a speedy recovery. If any of you have time we are sure Quinn would like to hear from you.

Joyce Day, our Intermediate Stenographer, was born in the Sunflower State, Kansas. She graduated from El Monte High School and is a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Arcadia. Joyce and Floyd Day head a lively household including a teenage daughter, Shari, Hi Fi and Television sets, mountain sheep and mountain goat heads, and a black bear rug under the piano.

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At the November Staff Meeting Dr. P. A. Peterson, of the Horticulture Department, Citrus Experiment Station, Riverside, gave an interesting discussion of avocado flower opening in relation to avocado breeding. Colored slides and lapse time moving pictures showed that when the flowers open for the first time they are susceptible to being fertilized but produce no pollen. The petals then close and on the second petal opening, the following day, the stames are ripe and shed pollen. In crossing avocadoes knowledge of this behavior is essential. Tests with caged trees showed that bees were outstandingly effective in avocado pollination and increasing fruit-set compared with trees without bees.

DON'T MISS OUR STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND AT TWO P.M. FUN FOR ALL, WE'LL HAVE A REAL BALL!

Ed Pugh
Frank Simerly
Scribes

THE END